

FLEET FOCUS

PACDIV/Third NCB changes hands

By Rick Saltzman

PACDIV/THIRD NCB

After nearly two years in Hawaii, Rear Adm. Peter W. Marshall relinquished his command of Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Third Naval Construction Brigade (PACDIV/Third NCB) at a change of command ceremony on Aug. 27.

The new commander is Rear Adm. Charles R. Kubic, who most recently served as Vice Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Marshall will fill that position in Washington, D.C.

The traditional ceremony took place at 10 a.m. at Makalapa Crater with the thunderous sounds of artillery echoing in the background. Admiral Archie Clemins, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the guest speaker.

"It's an honor to be here to recognize all the good things that have been accomplished under Marshall's tutelage and leadership," said Clemins. "And just as important, to mention the accomplishments of the Seabees and the men and women of PACDIV. They can do what no other organization can do. Seabees have always been our primary workforce in the Pacific and around the world. Rear Adm. Marshall has been the force behind our Pacific Fleet Seabees."

In his remarks, Marshall honored his military and civilian employees.

"It has been a pleasure to be part of the ohana and to share your aloha spirit," he said. "Thanks for your continuing dedication and efforts of excellence. Seabees, your superb reputation is a collection of individual accomplishments. Each and every one of you make a difference. I'm truly proud to have been your brigade commander. And to the other half of my command, while I challenged the PACDIV crew with restructuring and reorganization of the command, you still produced two of the largest and most productive years in recent memory. You lead the way on innovative acquisition processes, emerging products and services and plain old-fashioned execution of the work."

Following Marshall to the microphone, Kubic said, "A change of command raises questions in the mind of the crew.



Rick Saltzman photo

Rear Admiral Peter W. Marshall turned over command of PACDIV and Third NCB at a change of command ceremony.



Rick Saltzman photo

Rear Admiral Charles R. Kubic assumed command of PACDIV and the Third NCB commands.

What will happen next? What is the new commander really like? What does he expect of PACDIV and the Third Brigade? We will work through these questions and many others together over the weeks and months ahead.

"Our focus will be on engineer requirements ashore vital to our current and future Naval operations. My Commander's intent is different for each command. For the Third Brigade, it's simple: Seabees will always succeed...always. For PAC-

DIV: make things happen, the right things, on time."

Refreshments and a cake-cutting by Admirals Marshall and Kubic followed the hour-long change-of-command ceremony at the Makalapa BOQ. In the background, John Wayne's WWII movie, "The Fighting Seabees," added a suitable touch to the Navy occasion.

Chosin's CPO Selectees share unique similarities

By Ens. J.C. Dudley

USS CHOSIN

USS Chosin (CG-65) had a lot to be proud of when the Chief Petty Officer Selection Board released their results.

Of 32 petty officers eligible for Chief, nine were selected for a selection rate of 28 percent.

What is really unique is the fact that of the seven selectees still on board Chosin, five are Fire Controlmen from the Combat Systems Department.

Additionally, just like the Navy average, they each have 13-14 years time in service and are all warfare qualified.

With so much in common, one would wonder if that would be an advantage or disadvantage going through Chief's initiation, especially for the two selectees from another rating.

Making the transition to Chief requires the selectees going through the initiation process to come together as a team and learn to work together to accomplish their goals.

With so many selectees from the same rating, many of the normal "roadblocks" encountered by a group of people not used to working with each other will be avoided.

According to FCC(Sel) Kerry Morgan, "It's great to have five FCs make it because we are a tight group and all feel very fortunate to be able to go through our initiation together and share that experience." Being from the same department will also have advantages for the new Chiefs once they put on Khaki.

According to Morgan: "We are already used to working together and helping each other out. The element of teamwork is already in place. Once we all put on Chief, I think it will be a great experience."

With five of the seven se-

lectees already used to working together, it would stand to reason that the other two selectees might have difficulty fitting in with such a tightly knit group.

According to Boatswain's Mate Chief (Sel) Gary Arehart, however, that is not the case: "We all get along great. I don't see it as being any different than going through with Engineers or Operations Specialists or anyone else." BMCM(SW/AW) Ray Ramos, Chosin's Command Master Chief added, "Part of the transition process which is unique on Chosin is every member of the CPO mess provides "a heart-to-heart talk" with the CPO selectees, during which, each Chief shares their wide ranging experiences since donning the khaki uniform.

"The wealth of experience, both positive and negative, is passed on to the new Chiefs. This "passing of the torch" will make the new Chiefs better prepared for the challenges facing them as the Navy moves ahead into the 21st century.

The fact that there have not been any problems with two non-Fire Controlmen fitting in with the group must mean that they have already learned one of their most important lessons: Being a Chief means much more than being a technical expert in your rating.

While Chosin's selectees will still wear their rating badges with pride as Chiefs, they will be a part of something much bigger. When a young Sailor needs guidance or has a question, there is never a concern as to what rating the Chief has.

The Chief is the expert, the one with the answer or the knowledge of how to get the answer. The Chief is the one expected to step up and take charge at the deckplate level, no matter what the circumstance. From bringing along a new division officer to helping the Seaman who didn't get paid, the Chief is expected to take care of any circumstance.

As long as there is a Chief's Mess, Sailors will be taken care of, junior officers will get trained and the mission will be accomplished.

The Chief's Mess on board Chosin will ensure that whether a Fire Controlman or Boatswain's Mate, the new Chiefs will be ready to wear their anchors with pride and to carry on the proud heritage of the Chief Petty Officer into the next millennium. On Sept. 16, Chosin will once again have something to be very proud of once again.

Chosin continues spirit of giving in Southeast Asia

By Ens. J.C. Dudley

USS CHOSIN

During two recent port visits, Sailors from USS Chosin (CG 65) used their liberty time to make new friends and lend a helping hand.

In both Singapore and Phuket, Thailand the War Dragon volunteer spirit was evident.

The Commanding Officer, Capt. T. J. Gregory and Command Chaplain, Lt. Vic McInnis, are always proud of the quick response given by the Chosin crew when the opportunity to lend a helping hand presents itself.

According to McInnis, "I never worry about personnel taking an active part in our community relations projects, because they are eager to help. I just get the word out and the Sailors do the rest."

While visiting Singapore, the needs of a local home for abused and neglected children were made apparent to the ship by the local chaplain's office.

The home, sponsored by the Singapore Children's Society, is a temporary home for children ages two through six. The home is able to care for a total of 40 children, and at the time of Chosin's visit had 36 in residence.

The home's supervisor, Agnes Anthony, asked for assistance in completing some heavy gardening work that the resident gardener was unable to accomplish alone.

Shortly after arriving at the home, the volunteers experienced first-hand the Singapore monsoon season as the skies began to grow dark with clouds, bringing forth torrents of rain and forcing everyone to retreat inside.

While the rain dampened the gardening effort, it did not dampen the Chosin volunteer spirit.

Anthony gave the Sailors a tour of the home and introduced them to the staff and children. She then led the way to the playroom where the children played

games with the Sailors or just took the opportunity to be quietly held and rocked.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Daniel Hadley from Delhi, N.Y. said, "I enjoyed the time we spent with the children while it was raining. It was good to see the faces of the people that we were there to help."

The skies lifted about an hour after the deluge began, and the gardening resumed.

Sailors helped to prune banana trees, rake leaves, dig up stumps and chop large roots out of the ground that had become exposed and hazardous to tiny feet.

The work went on until noon with the heat and humidity climbing rapidly following the soaking rain. Large piles of leaves and other debris had accumulated during the time-spent gardening.

Sailors removed these piles from the grounds to the rear of the home's property where they were put safely out of the way of the children.

After completing the project and returning the tools to the gardener's shed, Anthony insisted everyone have a cool drink while she offered her thanks to the Sailors for all their work.

She reminded everyone that the home was not supported by government funds, but relied on the charitable contributions of people like those from Chosin.

As the group left Yeoman 3rd Class Shawn Brown of Chapin, S.C. commented that, "It was nice to spend some of my free time helping someone in need."

The next stop for the ship was Phuket, Thailand.

Before the deployment began, Chosin Sailors had picked up two pallets of school supplies from the Project Handclasp program.

These supplies were designated for distribution during the ship's port visit to Thailand.

Crewmembers got the word that the

delivery would be made the morning after Chosin's arrival, and that all the materials had to be transferred from ship to shore by 8:30 a.m.

Transferring the materials to shore proved a challenge as hundreds of pounds of books and school supplies had to be ferried from Chosin's anchorage to shore by means of liberty boats.

Even Sailors that weren't going to distribute the materials took time out from their liberty to assist those who were by taking case after case down to waiting liberty boats.

They continued to help once the materials were off-loaded onto the pier by picking up the cases and transferring them to an awaiting bus used to take the goods to their final destination.

Once the materials had been loaded for the final transit the volunteers were informed that the Vice Governor of Phuket, Wittaya Pintapat, would personally accept the material on behalf of the schools and distribute them accordingly. Pantapat cordially greeted the volunteers at the governor's office.

He joined the crew for photographs taken by local newspapers and television stations in front of the Project Handclasp materials.

Pintapat thanked the volunteers saying, "We are very grateful for the gifts that you have brought to us. They will be well used by the children of Phuket. Thank you, for your hard work, goodwill and the desire to help."

Chosin Sailors found Phuket to be one of the most scenically beautiful regions in Thailand.

The volunteers knew that being part of project handclasp helped the peoples they brought materials to, and elped them become better people and better Sailors.

With much of their Western Pacific deployment still left to go, there will be many more opportunities for the Sailors on board the "War Dragon" to lend a helping hand.

U.S. military mobilizes to assist in Turkey disaster

American Forces Press Service

American service members are helping Turkey recover from the killer earthquake that killed more than 14,000 people and injured 27,000 others.

U.S. European Command's Operation Avid Response kicked in shortly after the Aug. 17 quake struck about 65 miles east of Istanbul near the town of Izmit. Turkish officials estimate about 600,000 people are homeless. The quake, which registered 7.4 on the Richter scale, damaged more than 54,000 buildings, of which up to 35,000 may have to be demolished.

U.S. military personnel stationed at Incirlik Air Base

in southeastern Turkey felt the quake, but no one was injured and no damage occurred, according to officials there.

Service members and families stationed at Incirlik and in the west coast Turkish city of Izmir joined the relief effort, donating clothing and other goods and supplies to local Turkish authorities.

U.S. Naval Forces Europe in Naples, Italy, sent a 24-member surgical response team and 27,000 pounds of medical gear to Izmit Aug. 19.

The team of doctors, nurses and corpsmen initially worked in a soccer stadium providing immediate trauma care; the team moved offshore when U.S. naval ships

reached the area.

An Air Force flight surgeon from England deployed to provide immediate care to casualties.

European Command also deployed a three-person medical assessment team to Istanbul to assess future medical needs.

An Air Force team of 31 medical and engineering specialists arrived in Izmit Aug. 20 to survey the wreckage and assess local needs for military aid. The team included specialists trained in water and structural systems, construction and radio communications.

Three Sixth Fleet ships carrying 2,100 Marines and 22 helicopters of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit remain on the scene.

USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) arrived Aug. 22. USS Ponce (LPD 15) arrived Aug. 24.

The ships are equipped with 631 hospital beds, six operating and five x-ray rooms staffed by eight doctors, three dentists and 88 medical corpsmen.

European Command also sent 10,000 surgical gloves and masks, three shipments of relief supplies and tents capable of sheltering about 95,000 people.

For more information on the US military's ongoing relief efforts in the region, visit the operation Avid Response website at <www.eucm.mil/operations/oar>.